

1 --6. A scheduling management system, comprising:
2 a schedule server which stores schedules of participants and schedules of equipments
3 reserved by ones of said participants in different groups; and
4 a plurality of remote client devices operatively connected to said schedule server,
5 which allow client users to input schedules of said participants and request an idle time
6 retrieval from said schedule server.

C2 1 7. The schedule management system according to Claim 6, wherein said schedule
2 server comprises a communication controller which provides a visual display of said idle time
3 retrieval at selected ones of said client devices.

1 8. The schedule management system according to Claim 6, wherein said schedule
2 server comprises a communication controller which provides registration for a special group,
3 and wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in
4 said special group satisfies a retrieval condition for retrieving said idle time.

1 9. The schedule management system according to Claim 6, wherein said schedule
2 server comprises a data access unit which accesses selected databases in accordance with
3 instructions for retrieving the idle time common from said plurality of groups.

Sub 2 FI 1 10. The schedule management system according to Claim 6, wherein a degree of
2 significance is provided to said participants respectively so that schedules of said participants
3 are grouped in the order of said degree of significance to thereby produce the idle time
4 corresponding to said degree of significance.

11. The schedule management system according to Claim 6, wherein said schedule server comprises databases which store schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said participants, and a multistageous idle time retrieval unit which divides schedules registered for participants and equipments into a plurality of groups and retrieves an idle time common from one group as a retrieval condition for retrieving an idle time common for another group of said plurality of groups.

12. A schedule retrieval method for retrieving a schedule, comprising:
a first step of accepting a first conference-holding condition of said schedule;
a second step of dividing a subject of said schedule into a plurality of groups;
a third step of comparing one group in said plurality of groups obtained by division with said first conference-holding condition to make a coincident result be a second conference-holding condition;
a fourth step of comparing one of said plurality of groups, which is not yet compared with any previous conference-holding conditions, with said second conference-holding condition, and
a fifth step of outputting a retrieval result obtained by said fourth step.

13. A schedule server apparatus coupled to terminal apparatuses allocated to schedule-reserving persons and schedule-reserved persons through a communication line for retrieving idle time of a schedule, comprising:
communication control means for transmitting data to said terminal apparatuses and for receiving data from said terminal apparatuses ; and